Killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka

1306. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International independent group of eminent persons has opined that in the name of tackling terrorism, innocent Tamil civilian population in Sri Lanka is mercilessly killed indiscriminately by the Sri Lankan Government leading to heavy flow of refugees exceeding one lakh on Indian Soil;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government of India to mitigate this problem and save from killing of innocent Tamil civilians; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the measures taken in terms of infrastructure, food, shelter, employment, other facilities, livelihood are wanting and inadequate to rehabilitate the refugees coming to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) There have been hostilities between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE since the beginning of 2006, which have resulted in serious loss of lives including that of Tamil civilians and in an increase in Sri Lankan Tamil refugees entering India. While conveying our concern on this issue, we have emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka that the only solution to the ethnic problem is a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka.

(c) Government are taking all necessary measures for the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees entering India. We have stressed to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to create conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees to their homes.

Amount provided to Jharkhand

†1307. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Central Government under various Central schemes to Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent out of the above;

(c) the status of the balance amount; and

(d) whether State Government have given any explanation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The amount provided by the Central Government under various Central Schemes to Jharkhand during the last three years and the amount spent out of this is given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Central Assistance	Amount spent	Balance amount
2004-05	1743.39	1773.08	+ 29.69
2005-06	1465.38	1474.75	+ 9.37
2006-07	1409.28	1480.51	+71.23

(d) Does not arise.

Grant-in-aid for Gur-Ta-Gaddi

1308. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of Maharashtra has requested for grant-in-aid of Rs. 125 crore for tercentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded City;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on the request of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Government of India has provided an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 125 crore in Annual Plan 2006-07 to Government of Maharashtra for the tercentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded. In accordance with the uniform pattern of funding applicable to all non-Special Category States, 30% of this amount is given as a grant and 70% is to be raised directly by the Government of Maharashtra as a loan. Chief Minister, Maharashtra had requested that the entire assistance of Rs. 125 crore be provided in the form of 100% grant. Government of Maharashtra has been informed that it would not be possible to make an exception in the funding pattern in one particular case.

SC/ST Population below poverty line

1309. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as against the national average of 27 per cent, 36 per cent of SC population and 45 per cent of ST population are below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to frame a law to make it mandatory for the Central Government and the State Governments to spend money for the uplift of the SC and the ST population in proportion to their population, *i.e.* 23 per cent of their respective funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when a law for the purpose would be framed?